

# Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

## Volunteer Newsletter



### What's New?

We have a new intern joining us from Indiana University! Caitlin Stahl just finished her senior year, and is excited to spend the summer here at the Bird Refuge. She studied Outdoor Recreation and has worked at a wildlife rehabilitation center. She will be helping with Education and Visitor Services, so make sure to say hello next time you are at the Visitor's Center.

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) will be starting again the third week in June! These high school-age crew members will be helping us with much-needed projects on the Refuge. The crew members this year are Ashleigh Smith, Brooklyn Kesler, Hannah Evans, MaKessa Burt, Kennady Cahoon, Cameron Pretl, Hunter Campos, Parker Bywater, Parker Tasso (that won't be confusing at all...), and Quinton Checketts. They had their first meeting with Katie last week, as she is the YCC coordinator this year, and they all seem very excited to spend their summer on the Refuge! We will also have an SCA intern named Evan Mitchel joining them as YCC crew leader. Please help us in welcoming them.



### Thumbs-Up!

A very big **THANK YOU** to volunteers who have helped us with this year's teaching season. Luckily, we didn't have to push through any government shut-downs, but these fearless leaders were still imperative to the success of our programs. Frank and Josée Kee along with Justin Lofthouse (photographed here by Winston Humphrey) graciously took over the Wetland Wings pre-school program during the month of March, while our usual teacher, Susan Snyder, acted as interim program director at the Ogden Nature Center. They had their hands overfull, but they did a great job. Susan Snyder is back now and we are very grateful! Les Talbot, Rebecca Browers, DeAnn Lester, Amanda Townsend, and Caitlin Stahl have helped us with many fourth grade Wetland Wonders field trips, and we are also thankful for their expertise and help with teaching. A special thank you goes to Amber Greening, who has helped with almost every fourth grade field trip, including arriving early for set-up and staying for tear-down. She is an education specialist at Hardware Ranch, and will be moving to Syracuse, NY the last week of May. We will miss her!

### Refuge Roundup

There is such a flurry of feathery activity on the Refuge this time of year! Forester's terns have arrived around the Wildlife Education Center, so be sure to catch them swooping into the water to catch their meals. We have also started to see Cliff swallows making their infamous nests on the building and pushing out the squatting House sparrows. Killdeer chicks and Canada goose goslings have emerged! Snowy, Great, and Cattle egrets have also been spotted around the building. Volunteer Dickson Smith captured this amazing shot of an American Bittern on the Refuge last week! White-faced ibis have been seen in great numbers as colonial nesters on the Refuge. Don't miss out on the Refuge during this wonderful time of year. Come out and see it for yourself!



# Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

## ❖ May 21 and 22: Bird Banner Party

We have already received our bird banner entries and will be selecting them very soon! The winning entries will come to the Refuge on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:30pm-6pm and on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2:30pm-6pm to complete their full-sized banners. These banners will be displayed along Main Street in Brigham City this summer. We could use some help from volunteers to guide the students while drawing their banners. Please contact Kathi (new work cell: 435-553-5069) or Charlotte (435-734-6457) if you would like to help.



## ❖ June 9 – 13: Nature Art Camp

In its 8<sup>th</sup> year, Nature Art Camp is always a favorite among local students. Our partners at the Brigham City Fine Arts Center will be in charge, once again, of registration and activities. If you know someone between the ages of 8 and 14 who might be interested in participating, call the Fine Arts Center at 435-723-0740.

## Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

### ❖ May 15 – 19: Great Salt Lake Bird Festival

- Saturday, May 17: Stop by Howard Brower's bird banding demonstration from 8am – 10am, and our outreach display with Caitlin Stahl and Frank Kee!

### ❖ May 21 & 22: Bird Banner Parties

### ❖ May 22: Last Day of Spring Field Trips (whew!)

### ❖ May 24: Willard Bay Grand Reopening

- Start of weekly Saturday Summer Refuge Tours, 10am – 1pm

### ❖ May 26: Memorial Day (building is closed)

### ❖ May 28: Promontory Kindergarten Book Signing Celebration 3pm – 5pm

- Please note change of date & time

### ❖ June: Volunteer Training

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of June. Keep an eye out for more details from Kathi.

### ❖ June 9 - 13: Nature Art Camp

### ❖ June 18: Going away party for Charlotte (12pm, WEC)



## AVOCET CORNER BOOKSTORE

Check out the recently re-stocked shelves of T-shirts, coffee, and soap! Support organic, shade-grown crops and fair trade with coffee from Café Ibis, roasted right in Logan. Soaps are also sustainably produced from Spirit Goat and also in Logan.